

THE RICHMOND DISPATCH
BY THE DISPATCH COMPANY.

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All letters and telegrams must be addressed to THE DISPATCH COMPANY. Rejected communications will not be returned.

TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 1885.

The Coupon Decisions.

At the present writing we have received none but meagre telegrams concerning the decisions rendered yesterday in the Virginia cases by the Supreme Court of the United States. Our telegraphic columns, however, contain all that our special staff correspondents, now in Washington, was able to obtain yesterday bearing upon the subject. Soon, at any rate, we shall be able to express an intelligent opinion concerning the decisions and to forecast what they may lead to.

The State's off-hand opinion is as follows:

"There is no reason for any popular excitement over the decision of the Supreme Court in the coupon cases. The result of that decision will not be to arouse contending parties or factions on the debt question. That day has passed. As we said some time ago, the debt question has gone out of politics. It now rests with the courts. No popular enthusiasm can ever again be called forth in favor of either side of this worn subject."

"No Legislature will ever again be elected on this dead issue. There may be those who, with only democratic purposes, will cry out to the people to declare for absolute repudiation. But their appeals will be plainly in vain, for the people have learned that the Supreme Court of the United States does not permit repudiation. No question of State sovereignty will have a patient hearing before the Supreme Court, as has been shown in this decision, and of course repudiation is therefore impossible. Future Legislatures will make provision for the payment of the debt to the government, of the schools, and the asylums, and of other institutions. Whatever may be done concerning the debt will not be done by any organized party. The people will not be turned against one another again in hostile conflict only to furnish test cases for the packed bench at Washington."

"We agree with the State that there is no party in Virginia which will endeavor to compel her to pay more of her debt than the RIDGEBERGER bill provides for paying. We are not so confident, however, that the Republicans will not attempt to make capital out of the embarrassed condition of the State finances which it is feared may result from those decisions. However, when we remember that the decisions were rendered by a tribunal having upon it only one Democrat, and that almost all the Republican papers in the North will be found applauding those decisions, we are at a loss to know how any party capital can be made out of them by the Republican party of this State. It would seem that the boot ought to be on the other leg."

But, as we said in beginning this article, we shall await further information before commenting at length upon the changed order of things.

General Lawton's Case.

We have repeatedly said that if General LAWTON, when he entered the army, did not take the oath to support the Constitution of the United States, the fourteenth amendment imposes no disabilities upon him. We stated the other day that General LAWTON in talking to the reporter for a Georgia paper did not set up this claim, but complained that the point was raised against him at so late a date. Subsequent information leads us to believe that General LAWTON has no recollection whatever of having taken such an oath, and therefore does not consider himself disqualified, as of course he is not if he did not take the oath in question before "engaging in rebellion." General LAWTON is so well known here in Richmond, and has so many staunch friends amongst our people, that there will be a general feeling of satisfaction if it turns out that the distinguished Georgian can go to St. Petersburg. The question was treated as a purely legal or constitutional one in all that we wrote on the subject. We published, too, several ably-written communications combatting our arguments. We shall all come out victors if the oath is not in the way; because in that case both sides can conscientiously rejoice over General LAWTON's acceptance of the office.

Did Not "Materialize."

During the presidential campaign we were frequently told by the Radical prophets that if Mr. BLAINE was not elected millions of dollars would be locked up in Wall street, which otherwise would be invested at the South. Well, Mr. BLAINE was not elected that fact, we believe, admitted by every one except the presiding genius of the Tribune's tall tower--and the prophecy about the locking up of capital has shared the fate of a good many other prophecies that have emanated from the same source on the eve of an election. It did not "materialize." The Boston Herald, in noticing this fact, says:

"It is apparent that there is more confidence in southern investments now than there was at any previous time since the war, and there is every reason to suppose that this is attributable to the improved feeling in the South caused by the election of Cleveland. We hear of large investments of northern capital in southern mineral lands and railroads, and now the State of Georgia, which earned a bad name for financial soundness through the quarrels of carpet-baggers and reactionists, has been able to place a new loan on terms more favorable than ever before."

THE STATE AT LARGE.

WEST HANOVER PRESBYTERY.

Evangelistic Appointments--Papers Passed--Resolutions.

[Reported for the Dispatch.]

RAPIDAN, April 20, 1885.

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Wheat and War.

In commenting upon the speculation in wheat consequent upon the prospect of war between England and Russia, the Philadelphia Times says:

"As American wheat is almost certain to be shut out of France and Germany by the high duties which have been established by those countries, the war between England and Russia, if engaged in, will not be likely to increase the demand for American wheat, except in England and in the south of Europe. The extent of the increase in the English demand will depend entirely on how greatly the war interferes with the supply of Indian wheat. But granting that England must have her entire supply from the United States, it would require less than forty millions of bushels to fill the place of the Indian wheat consumed in Great Britain last year. This would hardly be a surplus of forty or fifty millions to go and come on."

"They (the speculators) should try to find a foreign market for every possible bushel of it, and by so doing they will not aid in securing this desirable object. What is wanted is to sell the wheat to our foreign neighbors and get their money for it, not put the price so high that nobody will want it, and thus leave it on their hands."

The New York Herald takes a similar view of the matter. After stating that the danger of the speculative fever lies in its capacity to wholly displace our foreign market for wheat, and that high prices discourage exportation and offer inducements to rival wheat-growing countries to increase their production, the Herald says:

"Even in the event of war these influences will have free play, because it is admitted that the Russian crop has already been well distributed, and is thus removed beyond the reach of any blockade of Russian ports. This leaves India and Australia--both English possessions--in the field as bidders for the wheat of Europe and in full competition with our farmers. To push prices beyond that which will allow a profit to export, and thus out of our foreign market, and results in stagnation at home until prices may again adjust themselves to the normal condition."

The following action was passed:

"That the sessions of our vacant churches be instructed to have all our churches open for worship, and that they conduct that worship on each Sabbath in each month, and that the church which would be opened if they had the church or supply, and that they answer to Presbytery for their performance of this duty." See Book of Order, chapter 4, section 3, paragraph 4.

The following action in regard to Dr. Bell was taken:

"That Dr. T. D. Bell be seriously and so is prevented from attending upon our present meeting; therefore--"

"Resolved, That Presbytery hereby expresses sorrow at hearing of his sickness and sympathizes with him, and we offer up our sincere prayer for his restoration to the Great Head of the Church."

The following evangelistic appointments were made:

At Amherst and Rivanna; Dr. Latimer, Pamplin and Cartersville; Mr. Sherrard, Cove and Louisa Courthouse; Dr. E. Woods, Orange Courthouse and Rockfish; Mr. Petrie, St. James and Providence; Dr. White, Appomattox Courthouse and Pamplin's; Dr. Hawes, Willis's and vicinity; Trinity; Mr. McCoy, Rivanna and Gordonsville; Mr. Painter, Gordonsville and Orange Courthouse; Mr. Brown, Willis's and vicinity; Cartersville; Mr. Henry, Louisa Courthouse and Rockfish; Dr. Smith, Jamestown and Appomattox Courthouse.

Rev. J. C. Painter and Elder H. L. Holladay were appointed a committee to report to the next stated meeting as to the advisability of organizing a church in Orange below Raccoon Ford.

Drs. Latimer and Hawes and Elder L. L. Holladay were appointed a committee to prepare an address to the churches in regard to the maintenance of public worship in the absence of the ministers.

The amount contributed to foreign missions during the past year was \$1,206.52. This falls short of the amount appropriated to this Presbytery by the General Assembly by \$150. The churches are urged to respond liberally to this cause early in May. A missionary meeting was held at Rapidan Station, April 19, at which addresses were made by Revs. E. Woods and G. L. Petrie. A collection was also taken, and devoted to the erection of a suitable residence for the mission in Chinking, China. Rev. Henry M. Woods is at this mission.

Eight churches failed to report on reciprocal duties at all. Eight reported deficiencies on pastors' salaries, and twelve reported payment in full. The stated clerk was directed to urge those churches to the payment of these obligations, as they have vowed to do in their calls for pastoral services. He was also directed to urge upon the churches failing to send up reports the importance of complying with this Presbytery requirement.

The narrative was forwarded to the General Assembly. Blank forms were ordered containing the topics from the Assembly's form of narrative and certificate of the Presbytery of West Hanover to the state of religion.

Presbytery determined to return to the Assembly's days for collections for education and home missions.

In the Sabbath schools within our bounds there are 1,053 scholars and 160 teachers. Twenty-two of these schools have raised \$379.

Resolutions were adopted in regard to the death of Rev. C. C. McClung, who was supplying the churches of Gordonsville and Orange Courthouse. Attention was called to the action of Synod on home missions.

The overture of the General Assembly in regard to "marrying a deceased wife's sister" was answered in the affirmative.

South Plains was chosen as next place of meeting, and the time fixed August 18, at 3 o'clock P. M.

Rev. T. S. Witherson was appointed collector for the sale of the books of our Committee of Publication.

After a cordial vote of thanks, Presbytery adjourned to meet in Farmville May 7th at 11 A. M.

LONGFELLOW.

PETERSBURG AND VICINITY.

The Second Collection District--Rev. H. B. Roberts--Reception to Hon. A. M. Kelley.

[Reported for the Dispatch.]

PETERSBURG, April 20, 1885.

On Saturday night a difficulty occurred at Seaboard station, on the Seaboard and Roanoke railroad, in this State, between Henrietta Ramsey and her husband, during which the former killed the latter in the head, killing him instantly. The murderer fled, and at last accounts had not been arrested.

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[Special telegram to the Dispatch.]

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A. M. C.

Mr. Blaine expects to leave Washington for Augusta in a few weeks. His health is good, and he devotes about four hours daily to the completion of his book.

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